

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (original) A method for the production of amphiphile particles having incorporated therein at least one active agent, said method comprising forming a dispersion of particles comprising at least one amphiphilic structuring agent, followed heating said dispersion to an elevated temperature in a solution of at least one active agent, and then cooling to around ambient temperature.
2. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said heating is to a temperature and for a period sufficient to provide, after cooling, an incorporation of active agent into said particles which is at least 130% of the maximum incorporation provided by equilibrating said particles in a solution of at least one active agent at 37°C for up to 3 days.
3. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said particles are colloidal.
4. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said heating is to a temperature in the range 75°C to 200°C.
5. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said heating is for a period of between 1 minute and 4 hours.

6. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein, prior to incorporation of said active agent, at least 75% by volume of said particles are of non-lamellar or micellar phase.

7. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein, after incorporation of said active agent, at least 75% by volume of said particles are of non-lamellar or micellar phase.

8. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein, before incorporation of said active agent, the equilibrium form of the particles is non-lamellar or micellar.

9. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1 additionally comprising drying the amphiphile particles having incorporated therein at least one active agent.

10. (currently amended) Amphiphile particles comprising at least one structure forming amphiphile and an active agent, wherein the ~~incorporation level~~ of said active agent incorporated into said particles is at least 130% of the maximum ~~incorporation provided~~ level obtainable by incubating equivalent particles not comprising any active agent in a solution of an excess of said active agent at 37°C.

11. (previously presented) Amphiphile particles as claimed in claim 10, having incorporated therein at least one active agent, said particles being formed by the method as defined above.

12. (previously presented) Amphiphile particles as claimed in claim 10 wherein said structure forming amphiphile is one or more amphiphiles selected from natural lipids, synthetic lipids, surfactants, and amphiphilic copolymers.

13. (previously presented) Amphiphile particles as claimed in claim 10 wherein a portion of said structure forming amphiphile is a fatty acid and/or an oily amphiphile.

14. (previously presented) Amphiphile particles as claimed in claim 10 wherein said particles are colloidal.

15. (previously presented) Amphiphile particles as claimed in claim 10 wherein the particles are at least 75% by volume non-lamellar or micellar particles or mixtures thereof.

16. (previously presented) Amphiphile particles as claimed in claim 10 additionally comprising at least one fragmenting agent.

17. (original) Amphiphile particles as claimed in claim 16 wherein said fragmenting agent is a surfactant with a hydrophilic lipophilic balance of at least 12.

18. (previously presented) Amphiphile particles as claimed in claim 10 wherein said particles are stable to the loss of said active agent for at least 24 hours at 25°C.

19. (previously presented) Amphiphile particles as claimed in claim 10 wherein said particles are stable in terms of particle size for at least 24 hours at 25°C.

20. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising amphiphile particles as claimed in claim 10 and at least one pharmaceutically tolerable carrier or excipient.

21. (previously presented) A powder comprising particles as claimed in claim 10, optionally with some or all of the water therein removed.

22. (previously presented) A gel of cream comprising particles as claimed in claim 10, optionally with some or all of the water therein removed.